Allocation of Funds for ASI

2510. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India is suffering without sufficient funds; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the remedies proposed by Government to allocate more funds for Archaeological Department of conduct their research in a better way?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) There is no acute shortage of funds in the Archaeological Survey of India for the conduct of academic research.

Special Economic Package for Tourism Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

2511. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is the only key industry in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether terrorism has completely destroyed tourism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether steps would be taken by Government to extend special Economic package for rebuilding Tourist Industry in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Tourism is one of the key industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Militancy in the State has adversely affected tourist traffic to the Kashmir Valley.

(c) and (d) Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administration

Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized inconsultation with them every year. Forty-six projects with Central component of Rs.1334.06 lakhs have been sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir during the Ninth Plan.

Desiltation of Dams

2512. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that silting of dams is on the increase and this had led to the reduction in useful life of those dams;

(b) if so, the details of multi-purpose dams in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to combat siltation in future and desiltation of those dams?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Silting of reserviors is a natural phenomena and provision is made at the planning stage itself by way of provision of dead storage for accumulation of sediment in reserviors. Capacity surveys of 15 reserviors got done by Central Water Commission has indicated that there is no reduction in the useful life of these reserviors.

(b) and (c) The details of rate of silting in 27 multipurpose projects is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below). Irrigation being a State subject, steps to control silt in flow into reserviors like identification of vulnerable pockets in the catchment and treatment thereof, afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, development of waste lands lying in the catchment of projects and inclusion of the cost of scheme of treatment of sub-watersheds directly draining into the reserviors as a part of project cost in all the new water resources development schemes are to be taken by the concerned State Governments themselves.